

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14. Canceled

15. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing disconnection of a coupling using a device having first and second halves that are mateable to form an opening, a plurality of holes defined in said first and second halves, said plurality of holes including at least one socket hole defined in one of said first and second halves and at least one threaded hole defined in the other of said first and second halves, and at least one threaded fastener, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) fitting said first and second halves directly over said coupling, such that said coupling is disposed in said opening,
- (b) aligning said socket hole with said threaded hole,
- (c) inserting said threaded fastener into said socket hole and threadedly engaging said threaded fastener with said threaded hole.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said at least one threaded fastener is threadedly engaged with said threaded hole using a thin-wall deep socket.

17. (New) A method of preventing disconnection of a coupling: providing a device for shielding the coupling having a first section and a second section mateable with each other to form a cover for the coupling, the cover defining an opening therethrough, each section having a first flange extending from a first peripheral edge and a second flange extending from a second peripheral edge, the first and second flanges of each section defining a cavity; and fitting said first and second halves directly over said coupling, such that the coupling is positioned at least partially in the cavity.

18. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the first and second sections comprise first and second halves.

19. (New) The method of claim 18 comprising a plurality of holes defined through said first and second halves, said plurality of holes comprising:

a socket hole, said socket hole being defined in one of said first and second halves; and

a threaded hole defined in the other of said first and second halves, said threaded hole being opposed to said socket hole.

20. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

(a) a plurality of holes defined through said first and second halves, said plurality comprising:

(i) a first socket hole defined in one of said first and second halves,

(ii) a first threaded hole defined in the other of said first and second halves and opposed to said first socket hole,

(iii) a second socket hole defined in one of said first and second halves,

(iv) a second threaded hole defined in the other of said first and second halves and opposed to said second socket hole,

wherein said first and second socket holes are defined on opposite sides of said opening and wherein each socket hole is aligned with a corresponding threaded hole, and

(b) two threaded fasteners, wherein each threaded fastener respectively engages one of said socket holes and threadedly engages the aligned threaded hole.

21. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said first socket hole and said second threaded hole are defined in said first half, and wherein said second socket hole and said first threaded hole are defined in said second half.

22. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said first and second socket holes are defined in said first half, and wherein said first and second threaded holes are defined in said second half.

23. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein each half has a middle portion and opposite ends extending therefrom, and wherein said plurality of holes are respectively defined in said opposite ends of each half.

24. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein at least one of said two threaded fasteners has a non-hexagonal head.

25. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said flanges extend from said inner surface at a substantially right angle.